AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An adjustable heater for acquaria, comprising a substantially tubular container ~~(2)~~ within which are housed an electrical heating element ~~(3)~~, a switch ~~(6)~~ comprising fixed contacts ~~(7, 8)~~ and moving contacts ~~(9, 10)~~ capable of electrically connecting the said heating element ~~(3)~~ to an outside source ~~(R)~~ of electrical power, a temperature sensor ~~(12)~~ having a bi-metal strip ~~(13)~~ capable of detecting the temperature of the liquid and interacting with the said switch ~~(6)~~ to move it from a closed position to an open position when a predetermined temperature ~~(T)~~ is reached, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~said~~ moving contacts ~~(9, 10)~~ of the ~~said~~ switch ~~(6)~~ are secured to a free end ~~(13')~~ of the ~~said~~ bi-metal strip ~~(13)~~, the other end ~~(13")~~ of the ~~said~~ bi-metal strip ~~(13)~~ being electrically insulated so as to prevent current from passing through it.

2. (Currently Amended) The heating according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~said~~ heating element ~~(3)~~ comprises at least one electrical resistance ~~(4)~~ having a first terminal directly connected to a first conductor ~~(5')~~ of a supply cable from the ~~said~~ source ~~(R)~~ of electrical power.

3. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the said at least one electrical resistance ~~(4)~~ has a second terminal which can be connected to a second conductor ~~(5")~~ of the ~~said~~ supply cable ~~(5)~~ through the ~~said~~ switch ~~(6)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~said~~ moving contacts ~~(9, 10)~~ are mounted on a connecting plate ~~(14)~~ which is in turn anchored to the ~~said~~ free end ~~(13")~~ of the bi-metal strip ~~(13)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~said~~ fixed contacts ~~(7, 8)~~ of the ~~said~~ switch ~~(6)~~ are connected respectively to the ~~said~~ second supply cable ~~(5")~~ and the ~~said~~ second terminal of the ~~said~~ at least one resistance ~~(4)~~, the ~~said~~ pair of fixed contacts ~~(7, 8)~~ being in a position facing the ~~said~~ pair of moving contacts ~~(9, 10)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the other end of the ~~said~~ strip ~~(13")~~ is anchored to a supporting frame ~~(15)~~ through a suitable elastic connecting member ~~(16)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~said~~ elastic connecting member ~~(16)~~ has a portion ~~(16")~~ substantially transverse to the plane of the extension of the bi-metal strip ~~(13)~~ for connection to the ~~said~~ bi-metal strip ~~(13)~~ and a portion substantially parallel to the plane of extension of the bi-metal strip ~~(13)~~ for anchoring to the ~~said~~ frame ~~(15)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 7, ~~characterised in that it comiprises~~ comprising adjustment means ~~(18)~~ acting on ~~the~~ said substantially transverse portion ~~(16')~~ of the ~~said~~ elastic connecting member ~~(16)~~ to vary the stiffness of the bi-metal strip ~~(13)~~ and the position of its free end ~~(13')~~, and therefore of the ~~said~~ pair of moving contacts ~~(9, 10)~~ with respect to the ~~said~~ pair of fixed contacts ~~(7, 8)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~said~~ adjustment means ~~(18)~~ ~~comprise~~ comprises a threaded pin ~~(19)~~ acting on the ~~said~~ transverse portion ~~(16')~~ of the ~~said~~ elastic connecting member ~~(16)~~ and which can be screwed into a seat having a matching thread in a fixed support ~~(20)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~said~~ threaded pin ~~(19)~~ is connected to a knob ~~(22)~~ projecting from the ~~said~~ container ~~(2)~~ and provided with a graduated thermometric scale ~~(23)~~ which can be compared with a fixed indicator associated with the ~~said~~ container ~~(2)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 10, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~said~~ knob ~~(22)~~ is connected to the ~~said~~ threaded pin ~~(19)~~ through a small shaft ~~(24)~~ which passes through the ~~said~~ container ~~(2)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 11, ~~characterised in that it comprises~~ comprising means ~~(27)~~ for calibrating the ~~said~~ temperature means ~~(18)~~ acting on the ~~said~~ small shaft ~~(24)~~ to vary the angular position of the ~~said~~ knob ~~(22)~~ with respect to the ~~said~~ threaded pin ~~(19)~~ so as to adjust the temperature ~~(T)~~ set on the ~~said~~ thermometric scale ~~(23)~~ to that effectively measured ~~(Te)~~ by an external reference thermometer.

13. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 12, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the said calibration means ~~(27)~~ ~~comprise~~ comprises an adjustment ratchet ~~(28)~~ housed in a seat ~~(29)~~ in the ~~said~~ knob ~~(22)~~ rigidly connected to the ~~said~~ small shaft ~~(24)~~ and

selectively connected to the ~~said~~ knob ~~(22)~~ in predetermined angular positions by means of a variable keying connecting member.

14. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 13, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~said~~ variable keying connecting member comprises a toothed crown ~~(31)~~ which can be engaged by a tooth ~~(32)~~ formed along the upper edge of the ~~said~~ seat ~~(29)~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 13, ~~characterised in that~~ comprising magnetic means ~~(33)~~ ~~are~~ proximate to the free and ~~(13')~~ of the ~~said~~ bi-metal strip ~~(13)~~ to keep the ~~said~~ moving and fixed contact means stably in a connecting position.

16. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ including means ~~are provided~~ for visually indicating the position of the ~~said~~ switch, comprising a lamp or luminous diode ~~(34)~~ connected in parallel to the ~~said~~ electrical heating element ~~(3)~~.